

What is claimed is:

1. A base module for a filter assembly comprising:
 - a body defining a receptacle for receiving a filter cartridge and a central axial opening surrounded by a coaxial lip;
 - a mounting bracket extending from said body for mounting said base module to a vehicle;
 - a communication module receivable in said body central axial opening at a plurality of angular orientations to said body, said communication module including a skirt which mates with said lip, an inlet conduit extending axially into said receptacle, a corresponding inlet fitting defining a fluid passageway extending away from said receptacle and an outlet fitting defining a fluid passageway extending away from said receptacle,
 - wherein said communication module is received in said body and fixed to said body to form said base module.
2. The base module of claim 1, wherein said annular skirt projects axially toward said receptacle and said annular lip projects axially away from said receptacle.
3. The base module of claim 2, wherein said communication module skirt fits closely over said body annular lip forming a joint.
4. The base module of claim 3, wherein said joint includes an annular sealing grommet disposed between said skirt and said lip.
5. The base module of claim 1, wherein said communication module is joined to said body by an ultrasonic weld.

007570-001601

Sub C

Sub A

Sub D1

- 8/28

545

Sub A2

16. The base module of claim 11, wherein the axes of said fittings are non-coaxial.

163

[Handwritten signature]

5/2

~~19. The base module of claim 18, wherein a sealing grommet is disposed between said throat and said connectors for sealing engagement therewith.~~

20. The base module of claim 11, wherein said body, said communication module and said fittings are separately molded components.

8B
A4

21. A method for manufacturing a base module for a filter cartridge, said base module having inlet and outlet fittings defining fluid passageways oriented at first and second angular positions relative to each other comprising:

Sub 1

- a) providing a communication module having inlet and outlet fittings;
- b) providing a body adapted to receive and mate with said communication module in a plurality of angular orientations to said communication module;
- c) mating said communication module to said body at an angular orientation selected from said plurality of angular orientations; and
- d) joining said communication module to said body.

22. The manufacturing method of claim 21, wherein said communication module includes a pair of integral, axially extending inlet and outlet connectors and said inlet and outlet fittings are separate components each adapted to mate with a corresponding connector in a plurality of angular orientations to said communication module, said manufacturing method further comprising;

- e) mounting said inlet fitting to said inlet connector at a first angular orientation selected from said plurality of angular orientations;
- f) joining said inlet fitting to said inlet connector;
- g) mounting said outlet fitting to said outlet connector at a second angular orientation selected from said plurality of angular orientations; and
- h) joining said outlet fitting to said outlet connector.

00785785-021604

23. The manufacturing method of claim 21; wherein step d) comprises ultrasonic welding.

24. The manufacturing method of claim 22, wherein said first and second angular orientations are different.

25. The manufacturing method of claim 22, further comprising mounting a sealing ring between said fittings and said connectors.

26. The manufacturing method of claim 22, wherein steps d), f), and h) further comprise ultrasonic welding.

27. 26. The manufacturing method of claim 20, wherein said inlet and outlet fittings are integral to said communication module and have a fixed angular orientation thereto.

28. 27. The manufacturing method of claim 26, wherein said communication module defines an axis and said inlet and outlet fittings have axes which are not coaxial with said module axis.

00796795 00460
F05120 58658260

815
B1